

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1, 13 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 remain pending.

The undersigned thanks Examiner Gilman for considering the Amendment that was informally submitted by e-mail on May 28, 2004. This Amendment corresponds to said informal Amendment. If the Examiner has any other comments or concerns, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned as set forth below.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amdahl (U.S. Pat. No. 5,653,548) in view of Burton (U.S. Pat. No. 6,244,735). Claims 1-20 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burton (U.S. Pat. No. 6,113,301) in view of Burton '735. These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

In regards to Burton '735, the Examiner states that Burton '735 discloses four socket panels (26). However, with reference to col. 2, lines 12-34, ramp locks (26) are formed as a part of boss (24) of reflector (22), not as a part of the socket (20). Moreover, with reference to FIG. 1 of Burton '735, ramp locks (26) are clearly missing from the socket (20). Since claims 1, 13 and 20 recite that the ball socket itself includes the socket panels, claims 1, 13 and 20 are patentable over the proposed combination of Burton '735 with Amdahl and Burton '301 for at least the foregoing reasons.

It is noted that the Examiner told the undersigned by telephone conference on even date herewith that referring to the locks (26) was a typo on his part. He meant to refer to items (34) and (32). However, as the undersigned explained to the Examiner, the claims still define over Burton '735, either taken alone or in combination with the other art of record. The Examiner indicated that he believes the invention is different than the cited references, but he wanted to take some time and review the claim language in view

of the noted references. Again, if the Examiner does not believe the claims are in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersign at the number provided below.

Even disregarding the foregoing, without agree with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, claims 1, 13 and 20 have been amended to more clearly recite what it is the Applicant regards as his invention. More specifically, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to more clearly recite that the socket panels are positioned between and spaced apart from the arches. There is no teaching nor is there any suggestion in the art of record disclosing such an arrangement. In regards to claim 20, there is no teaching nor is there any suggestion in the art of record disclosing a ball socket having outwardly directed tabs on the basket, socket panels joined to the basket along one edge, with each socket panel having an outwardly directed ledge, such that the tabs are arranged in non-alignment relation with adjacent ledges as now recited in claim 20. In addition, with respect to claims 1, 13 and 20, there is no teaching nor is there any suggestion in the art of record to align the inwardly directed fingers with the outwardly directed ledges of the socket panels. For at least these additional reasons, claims 1, 13 and 20 are patentable over the cited references, either taken alone or in combination.

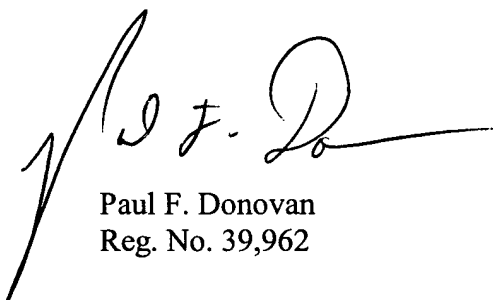
The remaining claims depend from one of claims 1, 13 and 20, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that can be addressed and expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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